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SUBJECT: NO FIRM DECISION ON BELGIAN PLEDGE AT ROME RULE OF
LAW CONFERENCE

REF: SECSTATE 87370

(C) Polcouns presented reftel demarche to Jacques Vermeulen, Belgian MFA Director for Asia. He noted that the Belgian government had yet to make a firm decision on whether or how much of a pledge to make at the Rome Conference. That said, the MFA (and the Development Ministry) considered rule of law issues to be very important. On the broader question of Afghanistan policy, Vermeulen said the MFA leadership believed the important task now was preventing the Taliban from regaining control of the country. If present FM De Gucht and Development Minister De Decker retained their posts in the current cabinet formation negotiations, Vermeulen speculated that this policy would become more firmly entrenched and robust. Fox

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